

2. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the adhesive tape is a heat-resistant adhesive tape for the automobile painter with a heat resistance at temperatures up to 130° C (1 hr).

3. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the adhesive tape is 15 to 75 mm wide.

4. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking material is selected from the group consisting of paper, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric and another sheet material capable of adhering.

5. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking material is unbleached Kraft paper, having a weight of 30 to 40 g/m² and a width of 15 to 50 cm.

6. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking sheet is a polyolefin sheet which has a thickness of 7 to 40 mm and a width of 0.5 to 2 m.

7. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the masking sheet is folded so that it can be extended along the external dimensions of the masking material and is folded against the masking material in accordion fashion.

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8. (Amended Once) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein a portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking material adheres is 1 to 5 mm wide and the portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking sheet adheres is 1 to 5 mm wide.

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10. (Amended Once) A method comprising applying the masking tape of claim 1 to a part to be masked, and then subjecting said part to a surface treatment.

11. (New) The masking tape of claim 2, wherein the heat-resistant adhesive tape is a fine line tape.

12. (New) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet backing is of polypropylene or soft PVC.

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13. (New) The masking tape of claim 3, wherein the adhesive tape is 19 to 30 mm wide.

14. (New) The masking tape of claim 5, wherein the width is 20 to 40 cm.

15. (New) The masking tape of claim 6, wherein the thickness is 8 to 20 mm.
16. (New) The masking tape of claim 6, wherein the masking sheet is a polyethylene sheet.
17. (New) The masking tape of claim 6, wherein the masking sheet is corona pretreated.
18. (New) The masking tape of claim 1, wherein a portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking material adheres is 2 to 4 mm wide and the portion of the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition to which the masking sheet adheres is 2 to 4 mm wide.
19. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the part is an automobile part.
20. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the surface treatment is a painting treatment.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time,